

What is claimed is:

1. A method of for quantum modulating optical signals by using a nonlinear optical medium, wherein the nonlinear optical medium includes two closely spaced ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ such that the transition among the ground states is dipole forbidden, and an excited state $|3\rangle$ such that two-photon transition between the ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ via the excited state $|3\rangle$ is allowed, the method comprising the steps of:

a) applying a first continuous wave (cw) laser light as an input to the nonlinear optical medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_α corresponding to a first transition between the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

b) applying a second laser light to the nonlinear optical medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_β corresponding to a second transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

c) adjusting the intensities of the first laser light ω_α and the second laser beam ω_β to produce a strongly driven superposition state composed of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$ creating two-photon coherence induction Rep_{12} ;

d) applying a third laser light to the nonlinear optical

medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_p corresponding to a third transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$ for nondegenerate four-wave mixing or phase conjugation geometry with the first laser light ω_α , the second laser light ω_β , and the third laser light ω_p to produce nondegenerate four-wave mixing signal ω_d ; and

e) connecting the nondegenerate four-wave mixing signals ω_d to an optical fiber.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the excited state $|3\rangle$ is selected such that its energy level is higher than the energy level of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the ground state $|2\rangle$ is selected such that its energy level is higher than the energy level of the ground state $|1\rangle$.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p are synchronized to satisfy a temporal and spatial overlap of the laser lights ω_α , ω_β and ω_p in the nonlinear optical medium, and frequency difference δ_p between the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p is near the Rabi frequency Ω_p of the ω_p .

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p are synchronized to satisfy a temporal and spatial overlap of the laser light ω_α with the ω_β and the ω_p , but keeping temporal delay of the laser lights ω_p from the ω_β by τ no longer than phase decay time T_2 among the two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ with negligible frequency difference δ_p between the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p .

6. A method for quantum modulating optical signals by using a nonlinear optical medium, wherein the nonlinear medium includes two closely spaced ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ such that the transition between the ground states is dipole forbidden, and two closely spaced excited states $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ such that the transition between the excited states is dipole forbidden, and such that two-photon transition between the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$ via the excited state $|3\rangle$ or $|4\rangle$ is allowed, the method comprising the steps of:

f) applying a first continuous wave (cw) laser light as an input to the nonlinear optical medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_α corresponding to a first transition between the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

g) applying a second laser light to the nonlinear optical

medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_β corresponding to a second transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

h) adjusting the intensities of the first laser light ω_α and the second laser beam ω_β to produce a strongly driven superposition state composed of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$ creating two-photon coherence induction Rep_{12} ;

i) applying a third laser light to the nonlinear optical medium through an optical fiber or free space at a frequency of ω_p corresponding to a third transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|4\rangle$ for nondegenerate four-wave mixing or phase conjugation geometry with the first laser light ω_α , the second laser light ω_β , and the third laser light ω_p to produce nondegenerate four-wave mixing signal ω_d ; and

j) connecting the nondegenerate four-wave mixing signals ω_d to an optical fiber.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the excited states $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ are selected such that their energy levels are higher than the energy level of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the ground state $|2\rangle$ is selected such that its energy level is higher than the energy level of the ground state $|1\rangle$.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p are synchronized to satisfy a temporal and spatial overlap of the laser lights ω_α , ω_β and ω_p in the nonlinear optical medium, and frequency difference δ_p between the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p is the same as the frequency difference between the excited states $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p are synchronized to satisfy a temporal and spatial overlap of the laser light ω_α with the ω_β and the ω_p , but keeping temporal delay of the laser lights ω_p from the ω_β by τ no longer than phase decay time T_2 among the two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ with negligible frequency difference δ_p between the second laser light ω_β and the third laser light ω_p .

11. An apparatus for quantum modulating optical signals by using a nonlinear optical medium, wherein the nonlinear medium includes two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ such that the transition between the ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ is dipole forbidden, and an excited states $|3\rangle$ such that two-photon transition between the ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ via the

excited state $|3\rangle$ is allowed, the apparatus comprising:

a) a first laser light source for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_1 corresponding to a first transition between the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

b) a second laser light source for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_2 corresponding to a second transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

c) a means of splitting a third laser light from the second laser light for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_p corresponding to a third transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$; and

d) a means for adjusting the intensities and the frequencies of the first light, the second light, and the third light to produce a coherent superposition state of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the nonlinear optical medium is a solid.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the nonlinear optical medium is a doubly coupled semiconductor quantum wells.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$, and the excited state $|3\rangle$ are selected in conduction band of the doubly coupled semiconductor quantum wells.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the first laser light source delivers single-mode light.

16. An apparatus for quantum modulating optical signals by using a nonlinear optical medium, wherein the nonlinear optical medium includes two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ such that the transition between the ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ is dipole forbidden, and two excited state $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ such that the transition between the excited states $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ is dipole forbidden, and such that two-photon transition between the ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$ via the excited state $|3\rangle$ or the excited state $|4\rangle$ is allowed, the apparatus comprising:

a) a first laser light source for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_1 corresponding to a first transition between the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

b) a second laser light source for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_2 corresponding to

a second transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|3\rangle$;

c) a means of splitting a third laser light from the second laser light for applying to the nonlinear optical medium at a frequency of ω_p corresponding to a third transition between the ground state $|2\rangle$ and the excited state $|4\rangle$; and

d) a means for adjusting the intensities and the frequencies of the first light, the second light, and the third light to produce a coherent superposition state of the ground state $|1\rangle$ and the $|2\rangle$.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the nonlinear optical medium is a solid.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the nonlinear optical medium is a doubly coupled semiconductor quantum wells.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the two ground states $|1\rangle$ and $|2\rangle$, and the two excited states $|3\rangle$ and $|4\rangle$ are selected in conduction band of the doubly coupled semiconductor quantum wells.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first laser

light source delivers single-mode light.

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